



12th House District
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STEVE TOBOCMAN
MICHIGAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Committee Member:
COMMERCE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
(Min. Vice-Chair)
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND
URBAN POLICY
(Min. Vice-Chair)

May 27, 2005

Mr. James A. Kirschensteiner
Assistant Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
315 W. Allegan Street, Room 207
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Mr. Kirschensteiner:

As the State Representative for Southwest Detroit, a community that may be affected by a future border crossing across the Detroit River, I am writing regarding the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) Environmental Impact Study and the relationship of the private border crossing proposals to the study. I strongly support the DRIC study process as the optimal approach to identifying the best solutions for increasing international border crossing capacity. The DRIC study should proceed without delay or interference from the dynamics of this highly competitive environment.

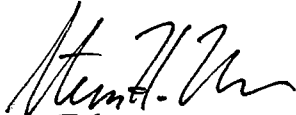
With the significant transportation infrastructure and international border crossing and plaza already located in Southwest Detroit, I am well aware of the complex issues surrounding the selection of a site for a new international border crossing in our region and the challenges this infrastructure brings to local communities, as well as public health and safety. A broader vision of the function and design of the international border crossing could yield new opportunities for economic development, regional tourism, and enhanced quality of life. Given that three of the five transportation corridors identified for further evaluation in the study are located in Southwest Detroit, I am very concerned that these issues receive the careful study and consideration that they demand.

While proponents of several private border crossing proposals are working to advance their proposals, it is critical that the DRIC Environmental Impact Study process be respected. It is imperative that all governmental agencies with jurisdiction over border crossings refrain from issuing any permits or engaging in any other activities that would promote any particular crossing until the DRIC study is completed and a preferred alternative has been recommended. At the very least, the public expects that an open,

considered, and deliberative process will be promoted and respected. It must be clear that no decisions will be made outside of the DRIC study process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Tobocman

State Representative—District 12

cc: Senator Carl Levin

Senator Debbie Stabenow

Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks-Kilpatrick

Congressman John Dingell

Ms. Gloria Jeff, Director, Michigan Department of Transportation

Mr. Mohammed Alghurabi, Senior Project Manager, Michigan Department of
Transportation

Mayor Kwame M. Kilpatrick

Detroit City Council